

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS INVENTORY PROJECT OVERVIEW

BLM KREMMLING AND GLENWOOD SPRINGS FIELD OFFICES

Why is BLM conducting a Wild and Scenic Rivers evaluation? Where?

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 established legislation for a National Wild and Scenic Rivers System to protect and preserve designated rivers (and their immediate environments) throughout the nation in their free-flowing condition.

Section 5(d) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act directs federal agencies to consider the potential for national wild, scenic, and recreational river areas in their land use planning processes.

- This fall, both the BLM Kremmling and Glenwood Springs Field Offices will begin revising their current **Resource Management Plans (RMPs)**, which guide the overall management of BLM-administered public lands within each Field Office. Public scoping for the RMP revisions will begin in late 2006.
- The BLM is required by the **Wild and Scenic Rivers Act** to assess river and stream segments under its management jurisdiction as part of its RMP process. This evaluation was not conducted during past RMP processes for these Field Offices.

What are the steps of the process?

- The wild and scenic rivers study process is composed of two main components: (1) the **inventory/eligibility phase** and (2) the **study/suitability phase**.
- The inventory phase includes identifying eligible rivers and stream segments and assigning a tentative classification (Wild, Scenic, or Recreational). At this time, the BLM's Kremmling and Glenwood Springs Field Offices are **conducting only the inventory phase** of the wild and scenic rivers evaluation process.

What will be the end result of this process? When?

- The **goal of this study** is to complete the eligibility study of the Wild and Scenic Rivers potentially occurring within the BLM Field Offices' boundaries by Fall 2006.
- At no time in this process or the RMP revision process will the BLM be designating Wild and Scenic River segments. Only Congress or the Secretary of Interior can make that designation. If, upon completion of the inventory phase, any river or stream segments are found to be eligible, a **suitability study (study phase)** will be conducted as part of the Field Offices' RMP revision process.

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Frequently Used Terms and Definitions

- **Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968:** Congress enacted the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to provide a national policy for preserving and protecting selected rivers and river segments in their free-flowing condition for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.
- **Eligibility:** Qualification of a river for inclusion in the national system through determination that it is free-flowing and with its adjacent land area possesses at least one outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Outstanding Remarkable Value:** An outstandingly remarkable value is a unique, rare, or exemplary feature, significant at a comparative regional or national scale, which describes a river-related value.
- **Suitability:** The purpose of the suitability step is to determine whether eligible rivers are appropriate additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The suitability phase will begin following completion of the inventory phases as part of the resource management planning process.
- **Free-flowing:** Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the water.

How do I provide input during the Inventory Phase?

Because BLM is only conducting the inventory phase, the most helpful and effective comments will be on **potential eligible river and stream segments** and/or the presence of potential **ORVs**. Please submit written comments by July 28, 2006 using any of the following methods:

(1) By US Mail to:

BLM WSR Inventory
C/o *Tetra Tech
4900 Pearl East Circle,
Suite 300W
Boulder, CO 80301

(2) By FAX to:

(720) 406-9114
Attention: WSR Inventory
Phase

(3) By E-mail to:

WSRcomments@ttsfo.com

** Tetra Tech is acting as a contracted agent for the Bureau of Land Management.*